

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024944

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024944

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT USNATO 365 (221815Z JAN 76) ACTION
SECSTATE SECDEF INFO OTTAWA 22 JANUARY 76.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0365

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, BEXP, CA, AWACS

SUBJ: AWACS: CANADIAN CONCERNS MOUNT ABOUT US/CANADIAN AND
NATO PROGRAM

REF: USNATO 0128 DTG 131237Z JAN 76; USNATO 0276 DTG 192005Z
JAN 76

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSION JANUARY 21 WITH DCM ON NATO
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PAGE 02 STATE 024944

AND US/CANADIAN AWACS PROGRAMS, CANADIAN PERMREP MENZIES

REFLECTED HIS DEEP CONCERN ABOUT (A) CANADIAN/US COOPERATION IN AWACS PROCUREMENT FOR NORAD, AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NORTH AMERICAN PROGRAM AND PROCUREMENT FOR EUROPEAN THEATER USE, AND (B) THE ABSENCE OF A COMPREHENSIVE AND COHERENT PROGRAM WITHIN NATO FOR ATTRACTING BROAD MULTILATERAL SUPPORT AMONG THE ALLIES FOR AWACS. END SUMMARY.

2. CANADIAN/US COOPERATION: MENZIES STATED THAT CANADIAN AUTHORITIES HAD SENT TO OJCS ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO A CANADIAN PROPOSAL FOR AWACS COOPERATION AND THAT, TO DATE, NO COMMENT OR OTHER INDICATION OF US ATTITUDE TOWARD CANADIAN PROPOSALS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM OJCS. MENZIES DEPLORED THE ABSENCE OF MOMENTUM IN NORTH AMERICAN COOPERATION, WHICH HE SAID COULD INHIBIT BROADER MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE NATO FRAMEWORK. IT WAS ESSENTIAL, IN HIW VIEW, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA TO SORT OUT NORTH AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, NOT LEAST BECAUSE THE TWO COUNTRIES NEEDED TO DETERMINE WHICH OF THE NORTH AMERICAN AWACS ASSETS MIGHT BE DEVOTED UNDER CERTAIN CONTINGENCIES TO USE IN ACE.

3. MENZIES ASKED THAT USNATO URGE US AUTHORITIES TO EXPEDITE CONSIDERATION OF CANADIAN PROPOSALS, SO THAT NORTH AMERICAN AWACS PLANNING COULD BE MESHED WITH THAT FOR ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. IN LATTER CONNECTION, MENZIES POINTED OUT THAT NOT ONLY CANADA IS INTERESTED IN SUBCONTRACTS FOR AWACS COMPONENTS BUT OTHER ALLIES ALSO WOULD HOPE TO HAVE A SHARE IN COPRODUCTION. EXTENT AND HENCE VALUE OF PRODUCTION SHARED BY ALLIES INVOLVED, MENZIES POINTED OUT, WOULD DEPEND, OF COURSE, UPON TOTAL NUMBER OF AWACS ACQUIRED BY ALLIES, AND A SIGNIFICANT AND EARLY CANADIAN COMMITMENT COULD HELP PRIME THE PUMP WITH OTHER ALLIES.

4. THE ABSENCE OF A COMPREHENSIVE AND COHERENT PROGRAM WITHIN THE NATO CONTEST FOR ATTRACTING BROAD MULTILATERAL SUPPORT AMONG THE ALLIES FOR AWACS: MENZIES, WHILE SATISFIED WITH TECHNICAL RESOURCES BEING DEVOTED BY THE US AND OTHER ALLIES TO DEVELOPMENT OF ALLIED AWACS PROGRAM, WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF A CAREFULLY CONCEIVED APPROACH BY THE ALLIANCE TO THE COMPLEX FINANCIAL AND RELATED POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED. HE SAW THE NEED FOR EARLY "CRITICAL PATH" PROGRAMMING WHICH WOULD TAKE ESPECIALLY INTO ACCOUNT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 024944

LEAD TIME REQUIRED BY THE ALLIES TO ENCOMPASS AWACS IN THEIR NATIONAL BUDGET PLANNING AND TAKE THE DOMESTIC STEPS NECESSARY IN EACH OF THE ALLIED COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN SELLING THE PROGRAM TO PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC OPINION, WHOSE SUPPORT WILL BE ESSENTIAL IF ADEQUATE FINANCING IS TO BE FOUND. MENZIES PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT AT NATO HEADQUARTERS OF A STEERING GROUP COMPRISING EITHER DELEGATION DCM'S OR SENIOR DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVES TO DEVELOP SUCH A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR EARLY NAC

CONSIDERATION.

5. COMMENT: MENZIES' CONCERNS ABOUT THE ARTICULATION OF A PROGRAM FOR DEALING WITH THE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL ASPECTS ENTAILED IN PROMOTING BORAD ALLIED SUPPORT FOR THE AWACS PROGRAM PARALLEL OUR OWN. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD WELCOME WASHINGTON COMMENTS, AS WELL AS VIEWS ON NEXT STEPS WE MIGHT TAKE HERE TO MEET THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE DIFFICULTIES MENZIES IDENTIFIED. WE ALSO BELIEVE MENZIES WILL BE PREPARED TO TAKE INITIATIVES IN NAC ON AWACS, AND IT WILL BE USEFUL TO OUR EFFORTS IF WE CAN DISCOURAGE HIM FROM PROPOSALS WE CANNOT SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE HIM TO SERVE NOT ONLY AS STALKING HORSE FOR IDEAS WE MAY HAVE, TO EXTENT HE CAN, BUT ALSO AS AN ARTICULATE AND FORCEFUL CHAMPION IN HIS OWN RIGHT FOR AWACS. BRUCE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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